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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KHIV](#) [SOCI](#)

SUBJECT: POPE CALLS FOR END TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HIV/AIDS
PATIENTS

REF: A. VATICAN 11

[1](#)B. VATICAN 18

[1](#)C. VATICAN 26

[1](#)D. VATICAN 89

[1](#)1. (U) Pope Benedict XVI told the audience at his Sunday prayer service November 26 that he hoped World AIDS day would "serve to foster greater responsibility in curing the disease, as well as in the commitment to avoid all discrimination of those who have been affected." The pope went on to praise "the many initiatives which the Church supports in this field."
[Note: The Catholic Church and affiliated organizations are leaders in HIV/AIDS relief work, administering care for some 25% of all AIDS patients worldwide.]

Comment

[1](#)2. (SBU) The timing of the pope's comments was welcome, as Post will host a December 20 conference addressing the role of faith-based organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, President of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care, will deliver the keynote address, and the Ambassador will highlight U.S. initiatives in the area.

SANDROLINI